

On 12 August 1960, the JCS forwarded to the Secretary of Defense a check list of military and non-military counter measures in the Berlin Crisis.

This check list was the product of a working group from the Inter-agency Coordinating Group of the Berlin Contingency Plan, chaired by Mr. T. Livingston Merchant, Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs at the time. The intent was to use the list to select measures to be recommended to the President by this group.

A sanitized version (BERCON-D-4) of this list was given to the tripartite ambassadorial group, consisting of U.K. and French Ambassadors, at a meeting in Washington on 24 October 1960.

On 28 April 1961, the JCS forwarded to McGeorge Bundy, through the Secretary of Defense, three hypothetical studies on Berlin, appendix C of which dealt with the check list. Mr. Nitze, ASD(ISA) forwarded a copy of this paper to State for information.

On 21 June, the JCS initiated and forwarded an updated revision of this check list to the Secretary of Defense, in which many of the measures of the previous list were included. A copy of this check list was sent to Dean Acheson, Special Advisor to the President. The purpose was to  
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recommend/ to deter the Soviets in connection with the Berlin Crisis and restore credibility of nuclear deterrence.

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Subsequently, the JCS paper answered specific questions posed by Mr. Acheson following his review of the 21 June JCS paper.

JCS furnished these answers to Mr. Acheson on 26 June. A copy of both of these latter JCS papers were also forwarded directly to State by Mr. Nitze, ASD(ISA).

With respect to the article contained in the July 3 issue of NEWSWEEK, it is noted that the items bear a similarity to those contained in the JCS recommendations and those of the Interagency Coordinating Group. Several of them differ, however, in specifics.

The subjects of evacuation of dependents, reinforcement of U.S. forces in Europe, and a declaration of limited emergency were covered only in a general way in the initial check list of 12 August 1960, and in more detail on 21 and 26 June. These measures, it should be pointed out, would be obvious to any observer of our posture.

At various times since last April, JCS representatives have been asked to confer with the following persons, outside of the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the review of the Berlin problem:

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Dean Acheson, Special Advisor to the President  
Henry Kissinger, Special Advisor to the President  
Henry Owen, Deputy Assistant to Dean Acheson

There have been previous indications that there is considerable detailed knowledge of our entire classified allied planning setup for the Berlin contingency plans in the public press. About 7 June 1961, there was an article by Joseph Alsop in the Washington Post which alluded to and discussed a previous article which appeared in the New York Herald Tribune under a by-line of Don Cook (European correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune in Paris).

Both of these articles indicated detailed knowledge of the political and military considerations surrounding our planning.

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